

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /092 W  
-----042210 030251Z /14

R 011130Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6698  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, SO  
SUBJ: PUBLIC TRIAL OF THOSE IMPLICATED IN APRIL COUP ATTEMPT

REFS: A) NAIROBI 7116; B) MOGADISCIO 0833

1. THE TRIAL OF TWENTY INDIVIDUALS IMPLICATED IN THE APRIL 9 ATTEMPTED COUP D' ETAT OPENED WITH A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLICITY ON JULY 29. THE PROCESS BEFORE THE NATIONAL SECURITY COURT IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT LEAST A WEEK. IT IS BEING HELD IN THE FORMER LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING IN THE CENTER OF MOGADISCIO. HEAVY SECURITY IS IN EFFECT WHEN THE COURT IS IN SESSION, WITH EVEN ADJACENT STREETS CORDONED OFF. NOTICE WAS PUT OUT THAT THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME; IN FACT, THOSE WHO ARE PERMITTED TO ATTEND ARE CAREFULLY SCREENED. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS ARE WELCOME, WE KNOW OF NONE WHO HAVE THUS FAR ATTENDED. THE TRIAL HAS GENERATED A GOOD DEAL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TENSION AND SPECULATION, AS WELL AS SOME FEAR AMONGST DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS, CLAN GROUPS OR TRIBES, THAT IT MAY SIGNAL THE START OF INTENSIFIED CLAN RIVALRY. THERE IS NO PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM FOR THE TRIAL.

2. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF COUP LEADERS SOUGHT REFUGE IN KENYA (SEE REFTTEL A), AT LEAST A HUNDRED WERE

ARRESTED, OF WHICH TWENTY ARE CURRENTLY ON TRIAL. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOME WERE RELEASED, AND SOME OTHERS WERE RUMOURED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT (REFTEL B). THE NAMES OF THOSE ON TRIAL GIVEN BY OFFICIAL SOURCES ARE:

COLONEL MOHAMOUD SHEIKH OSMAN (ERO)  
MAJOR IBRAHIM MOHAMED HERSI  
CAPTAIN BASHIR ABSHIR ISSA  
CAPTAIN ABDULLAHI HASSAN NUR  
LIEUTENANT ADEN WARSAME ABDULLAHI  
LIEUTENANT ADEN WARSAME ABDULLAHI  
LIEUTENANT MOHAMED ABDULLE HUSSEIN  
ABDULQAFAR WARSAME ABDULLE  
CAPTAIN MOHAMED AHMED YUSUF  
MAJOR SAID JAMA NUR  
MAJOR SAID MOHAMED JAMA  
SUB-LT. ABDULQAFAR GELLE OMAR  
SUB-LT. ABDI OSMAN UGAS  
MAJOR ABDIRASAQ SKEIKH OSMAN  
CAPTAIN ABDISALAM ELMU WARSAME  
LT. ABDULQADIR MOHAMED GULEID  
LT. ABDIRAHMAN MOALIM BASHIR  
SGT. FARAH OMAR MOHAMED  
LT. MOHAMED MUSE KENAN  
LT. ABDULWAHAB AHMED HASHI  
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MAJOR ABDULLAHI GELLE YUSUF

3. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT ABLE TO GIVE INDIVIDUAL CLAN AFFILIATIONS FOR MOST OF THIS TROUP, WE UNDERSTAND THAT 16 OF THE 20 ARE OF THE MUJERTAIN CLAN-FAMILY, AND FOUR OF THE HAWIYA. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THIS GROUP, COL. MOHAMOUD SHEIKH OSMAN (IRO), WE KNOW TO BE MUJERTAIN. SINCE TRIBAL, OR CLAN-FAMILY AFFILIATIONS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN SOMALI SOCIETY, THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL WILL HAVE IMPLICATIONS GOING A GOOD DEAL BEYOND THE FATE OF THE TWENTY MEN WHO ARE ACCUSED. THE PROSECUTION IS REPORTEDLY ASKING FOR THE DEATH PENALTY UNDER AN ARTICLE OF SOMALI LAW THAT MANDATES IT FOR A CONVICTION; THE DEFENSE REPORTEDLY IS ARGUING THAT ANOTHER ARTICLE, UNDER WHICH LIFE IMPRISONMENT IS POSSIBLE, IS THE MORE CORRECT. ESSENTIALLY THE DECISION IS A POLITICAL ONE.  
VOUGHT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRIALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOGADI01749  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 NAIROBI 7116, 78 MOGADISCIO 833  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PUBLIC TRIAL OF THOSE IMPLICATED IN APRIL COUP ATTEMPT  
**TAGS:** PINS, SO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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